

ROTARY CONGLETON

Newsletter

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The Four Way Test

of the things we think, say and do

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Classic car show



We are planning a Classic Car show and Road Cruise as part of our 75th year celebrations. Sunday 24th July will be a special day for Congleton's classic car-lovers.

We have been active in our town for 75 years. As part of our celebration, we are organising a spectacular show of classic cars at the Egerton Arms in Astbury.

We plan to attract 75 classic cars to the event - with money raised supporting The East Cheshire Hospice.

Organiser, Rotarian Rod Goodier, even hopes to get one or two cars from 75 years ago! So he wants any cars made in 1947! However, Rod says that all classics will be welcome – including modern classics. The event will be a great day out for owners – as well as a 'nostalgia trip' for all petrol-heads.

The cars will be judged during the event with 'Pride of Ownership' being the main criterion for selecting the winner.

Cars will assemble during the morning. There will be a raffle with many prizes and the Egerton Arms will be on hand to provide catering, please contribute as much as possible and give your donations to Rachel. After an early lunch, the cars will set off at intervals on a 40-mile road cruise that will take in Leek and Buxton, before returning for a prize ceremony and for the raffle to be drawn at around 4.30 pm and the 'Pride of Ownership' awarded for the top three cars.

Entry is only £15 per vehicle, and occupants are included.

Entry forms and more information for participating vehicles are available from club secretary rodgoodier@gmail.com

Rod will need support on the day, please contact him to register your support.

President's Patter

A lot has happened since our last Newsletter.

It was great to see the return of our Swimathon and although we had to use the Biddulph leisure centre it was still very successful

thanks to the hard work from Eric and his team. All those who took part said that they look forward to the return of this annual event at the new Congleton pool.



Our club has also been helping with the sorting and packing of the items for the Ukraine Appeal, an initiative started by Biddulph Rotary, which might go on for months to come.

We have a busy time ahead this summer. Helping the town celebrate the 750th centenary of it's charter, Bikeathon, Big Band Night, Astonbury, Festival in the Park and Classic Car Rally, and therefore, keep your eyes on the Diary of Events on our website. We also look forward to our new President taking over the reigns of the club in July.

Volunteering is fun!



Our own club motto is “do good, have fun”, here's a great article by Rotary International director Nikki Scott that links in with this statement:

“If it sounds like I am saying that to reassure myself, there may be an element of truth to that! Sometimes I think we are at risk of being way too mired in administering what we do instead of keeping it simple and just doing what we love. I am a great believer in being mindful

of our Four-Way Test as a personal compass:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Perhaps we should add a fifth? Will it be fun?

Giving service to others is WHY we joined Rotary and that is what gives us joy – let's not forget that! A meeting focused on actually doing a service project is way more rewarding than a meeting to talk about it. Throughout my professional and volunteering life, I have always questioned WHY? Why are we doing what we are doing? What purpose is it serving? During the COVID-19 pandemic, the working world and the volunteer sector were forced to embrace technology in a way we had never done before, even though it had been available to us for many years! It has been a gift in so many ways: accelerating much needed change, bringing us out from behind closed doors, offering greater inclusivity and giving us back precious time previously spent travelling. But, it can also detract from our basic human need to connect, interact, work along side each other and laugh together. As we deal with the ongoing pandemic and isolation that it can often lead to, let us embrace the best of what technology offers and question the rest. In fact, let us always question how we can work smarter, not harder. I have come to love the phrase 'Rotary Rocks'. For starters, it really does rock the world thanks to all of the amazing work that all of our Rotarians do throughout each year. We have been doing that now for 117 years as of our birthday on February 23rd, 2022! I am also a huge fan of the late Stephen Covey's third of seven habits of highly effective people: “First Things First” – what he fondly referred to as Big Rocks! “*Putting first things first means organising and executing around your most important priorities. It is living and being driven by the principles you value most, not by the agendas and forces surrounding you.*” In Rotary, our real work is to ‘Serve to Change Lives’. In building forward better, fairer and greener – what should we be doing more of and what should we not be doing at all?

Let's keep our focus on Rotary Rocks!”



SWIMATHON

Our Swimathon event took place at the Biddulph Leisure Centre over March 4th and 5th.

Last year, the event had to be cancelled completely. This year, Swimathon was made possible with the helpful support of The Biddulph Leisure Centre and the generosity of Tesco and Congleton Town Council.

A little smaller in size, nevertheless a total of 210 swimmers in 37 teams entered. Between them, they covered 5,404 lengths of the pool and swam a total of 84.4 miles over the two-day event. Swimmers covered the entire age range.

Organiser, Eric was delighted with the turn-out. He said that the closure of Congleton Leisure Centre, the demise of several Congleton swimming clubs and Covid had taken their toll on the number of teams at the event. The teams that did travel the extra 4 miles to Biddulph found a modern pool with wonderful facilities. Eric praised Nicky Holford and the helpful staff at the Leisure Centre who made the event so easy to run.

Nevertheless, Eric and his team of Rotarians are looking forward to the event returning to Congleton when the Leisure Centre works are complete, next year.

Several well-known faces turned up to swim. Jennie Cook, a member of the Biddulph team that swam the Channel last year had been in the pool for two hours already, before she swam on her own for an hour as part of the event. Jim Elkin, who supported the Rotary Bikeathon last year with an epic ride along the Pennine Way, entered his two daughters. The glamorous Bennetron team turned up. Mother, Kim and her 2 daughters Lauren and Nina have entered every event since it started in 2001.

Astbury St Marys entered a team. So too did Mossley C of E primary and Marfields Academy. Quinta primary school filled three lanes, the New Life Church entered 2 teams, the Air Cadets 4 teams, 1st Mossley Scouts, 3 teams, Girl Guides one. Biddulph Amateur Swimming Club took all 6 lanes for an hour whilst Congleton Amateur Swimming Club took 2 lanes. Massey Feeds from Holmes Chapel had hosted Congleton Rotary Club for an evening visit and tour of their mill last year. They turned up with a team of swimmers. Teams with quirky names, 'Sink or Swim', 'Degrees of Life', and 'Sassy Sharks' joined in to add colour to the event as did our team of 'Rustic Rotarians.'

Regardless, they all seemed to have a great time and their chosen charities are set to benefit when the sponsorship money is collected.



BLOOMIN' MARVELLOUS

The Rotary Crocus beds are in bloom!

The 8,000 crocus corms, planted on the Lower Heath 'triangle' by the ambulance station are just starting to flower. The purple crocus is the symbol of Rotary International's long-standing global commitment to eliminate polio. This commitment continues with under 5's still needing preventative vaccination although only 2 real hotspots now remain in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Our local club supports the campaign and the crocus plantings symbolise our involvement.



Pig Race

Pigs definitely did not fly on Saturday (26th February), but 6 wooden porkers delighted an appreciative audience and went to market throughout the evening. Hogging the floor, the six cute wooden pigs captivated a full house at the New Life Church, for an evening of fun pig races. Trying to save their bacon were 6 hapless competitors who raced in heats and tried to master the art of manoeuvring the pigs using rope halters to bring their hogs home. The audience squealed with delight as superior technique won the day and the pig that they backed to win came in first. The Tote, ably run by Wendy Thompson, generously paid out 50% of the takings on the winner and the remainder was saved to support Rotary good causes in the local community. The six winners of the individual heats competed in the grand final, and it was one of the youngest competitors that became the overall winner on the night. Organiser, Doug Parker presented Gracie with her reward – a trophy and a box of chocolates. Master of ceremonies was Kevin Thompson, Rotary-Congleton's president-elect.



CASH FOR UKRAINE

How to send cash to Ukraine refugees

WE have set up a page on the website to allow local people and companies to send cash to support the Ukrainian people. Here is the link to www.congletonrotary.co.uk

Through the global Rotary Foundation, the club is joining in a worldwide appeal by its 1.4 million members in 46,000 clubs in 200 countries to help the people of Ukraine. Rotary Foundation is able to ensure that 100% of funds given reach the destination without any costs being taken. What's more, any donations from local people who pay tax enjoy relief from Gift Aid, meaning that every £1 donated is worth £1.25.

Monetary donations mean that, through its connections with the Disasters Emergency Committee and its own members in Ukraine and in the countries bordering Ukraine, the funds raised can be channeled to meet specific requirements. Cash is easier and quicker to distribute and more focused than well-meant gifts of goods, claims the organisation.

From our own resources, Rotary-Congleton has started its local fund with a donation of £1,500.

Ian Robinson, Rotary-Congleton's Foundation officer says that Rotary's unique position within Ukraine and the bordering countries allows it to offer on-the-spot help wherever and whenever required. Every penny raised will go directly to where it's needed as requested by local colleagues. The Rotary fellowship of Healthcare Professionals is at the forefront of this, ensuring care and medical supplies are readily available. The network of members helps to ensure a safe passage for refugees within and outside Ukraine and also ensures that they have the provisions they need.

A central disaster response fund is being launched which is coordinated through the Rotary Foundation board of trustees. Its primary focus will be on refugees. It will also be working alongside global partners, Shelter Box, the Red Cross, and the United Nations to ensure complimentary assistance and coordinated response.

Designated Rotary districts in countries that border Ukraine can access grants of up to \$50,000 for relief efforts i.e. water, food, shelter, medicine, and clothing. Other Rotary districts outside these specifically designated areas can apply for grants of up to \$25,000 to help refugees that they may be looking after in their area.

For more than 110 years, Rotary's 'people of action' have used their passion, energy, and intelligence to take action on sustainable projects. From literacy and peace to water and health, the Rotary mission is to provide services to others and advance world understanding, goodwill and peace.

Rotary Foundation runs a number of high-profile campaigns, with perhaps the best-known being its long-standing efforts to eliminate polio. With its volunteers in every country, it is active in preventing eyesight loss in third world countries, providing low-cost prosthetic limbs and organising clean water, sanitation and hygiene.

To find out more about Rotary Foundation search www.rotary.org

News just in!

Mayor gives Rotary-Congleton's 'Cash For Ukraine' fund a big boost.

Rotary's international organisation is sending cash to the front line – to support fleeing refugees from the Ukrainian conflict. Rotary-Congleton is playing its part and has already sent £1500. Now the ongoing campaign has received a big boost from the raffle collection at the Mayor's Charity Ball.

Mayor, Cllr. Denis Murphy announced the proceeds from the raffle as a 'one-off' event to support Ukrainian refugees and as a result raised £720 on the night. He said that the Civic Ball was a great evening and presented the opportunity to support this important cause. He thanked everyone present and praised their generosity on the night.

With the ongoing collection on the Rotary website, a further £1,000 can now be sent. The fund is still open and donations can be made online at www.congletonrotary.co.uk

The Rotary Foundation is uniquely able to provide help through its local volunteers in all countries surrounding the Ukrainian border. The charity works in collaboration with the Disasters Emergency Committee and UNICEF. Rotary makes the point that cash support is easier to target and means that specific aid can be given when and where it is needed.

Rotary
Congleton



CASH FOR UKRAINE

www.congletonrotary.co.uk



BIKEATHON

Last year, our Bikeathon charity event attracted a great deal of interest and support from the town's cyclists. All abilities with ages from 3 to over 80 years old took part. So it's no surprise to learn that, with cycling becoming ever-more popular, the event will make a return visit this spring. The club says that you don't even have to cycle on the roads to ride for charity! Any exercise bike will allow you to take part and will have the same effect.

The event is planned to launch in April and end during the weekend of June 10th – 12th, but enthusiasts and weekend cyclists alike, can start now and tot up their mileage until June. Once a team has been registered, the total distance travelled until the final weekend can be recorded.

There's no age limit. Last year, nursery and junior schools rose to the challenge, raising substantial sums of money riding around circuits set up using road cones in their playgrounds. At the other end of the scale, cycling enthusiast Jim Elkin rode the Pennine Way and raised over £1,500. In between, teams of cyclists – from families, groups of friends as well as established groups joined in. Individuals set off on their exercise bikes in the privacy of their homes and recorded either their times or distances.

Entry is simple. There is a website where team leaders can register their team names. Raising money from sponsors is easy as well. There's an online form. Bikeathon is neither a race nor a rally. The only stipulation is that teams must follow the Highway Code. Full information is on the website: [Home \(congletonrotary-bikeathon.co.uk\)](http://Home (congletonrotary-bikeathon.co.uk))



President, Stew put on his lycra and led from the front last year

Radio comes to Congleton!

Stuart Neild was the guest speaker at our March meeting (Monday, 21st March). He told Rotarians about his plans to launch a new community radio station - Congleton Radio - at the end of April.

A lifelong radio enthusiast, Stuart is well-known for his work on Canalside Radio and his syndicated programme 'Board Games for Mental Health' and the Christmas pantomime, 'Cong Bear saves Christmas'



The web-based radio station will cover news, editorial features and documentaries about the town, its businesses, clubs and people. The timing of the launch coincides with Congleton's 750th Charter and the wide variety of events planned during the year.

Stuart told the club that the growing population of Congleton is ready for its own community radio which, he hopes, will mix interviews and music throughout the day and night.

President Stew and fellow members were enthusiastic in their support for the new venture.



April/May Diary

Date	Event	Place	Time
4th April	Business meeting	Astbury golf club	6.30pm for 7.00pm
18th April	Easter Monday	No meeting	
25th April	Social Night	Astbury golf club	6.30pm for 7.00pm
28th April	District Foundation meeting	Contact Patrick Tyrrell	7.30pm - 9.30pm
2nd May	Early May Bank Holiday	No meeting	
6th & 7th May	Volunteer Expo	NEC Birmingham	All day
16th May	Social Night	Astbury golf club	6.30pm for 7.00pm
21st May	District Assembly	Venue TBC	9.00am - 2.00pm

In a world where you can be anything,
Be Kind